UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA SOUTHERN DIVISION

IN RE:)	
JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA Debtor.)))) CASE NO.: 11-5736-T)) CHAPTER 9	BB- 9
)	

MOTION OF INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY'S SEWER WARRANTS FOR EXPEDITED HEARING ON ITS MOTION (A) REQUESTING THE COURT ABSTAIN FROM TAKING ANY ACTION TO INTERFERE WITH THE RECEIVERSHIP CASE AND THE RECEIVER'S OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SEWER SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECEIVERSHIP ORDER, OR (B) SEEKING RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO ALLOW RECEIVER TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND ADMINISTER THE SEWER SYSTEM UNDER THE RECEIVERSHIP ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bank of New York Mellon, in its capacity as Indenture Trustee (the "Trustee") for \$3.6 billion in special pledged sewer revenue warrants (the "Parity Securities") issued by Jefferson County, Alabama (the "County" or "Debtor") and as a secured creditor and party-in-interest, has filed contemporaneously herewith the Expedited Motion of Indenture Trustee for Jefferson County's Sewer Warrants for (A) The Court to Abstain from Taking any Action to

¹ The warrants include the following: \$211,040,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Warrants Series 1997-A; \$275,000,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Improvement Warrant Series 2001-A; \$110,000,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Improvement Warrants Series 2002-A; \$839,500,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Warrants Series 2002-C; \$41,820,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Warrants Series 2003-A; \$1,155,765,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Warrants Series 2003-B; and \$1,052,025,000 Sewer Revenue Refunding Warrants 2003-C. The Indenture refers to the warrants as "Parity Securities" and the warrantholders as "Parity Security Holders."

² The Trustee is a party-in-interest by virtue of the claims it holds against the County and, therefore, may request relief from the automatic stay to the extent it may apply.

Interfere with the Receivership Case and The Receiver's Operation and Administration of Sewer System in Accordance with the Receivership Order, or (B) For Relief from the Automatic Stay to the Extent Necessary to Allow Receiver to Continue to Operate and Administer the Sewer System under the Receivership Order (the "Motion"). The Trustee requests the Court hear the Motion on an expedited basis as soon as possible.

II. BACKGROUND

The Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Alabama (the "State Court") in the case styled: *The* Bank of New York Mellon, as Indenture Trustee vs. Jefferson County, Alabama, et al., Case No. CV-2009-02318 (the "Receivership Case") appointed a Receiver over the County's sewer system (the "System") on September 22, 2010 (the "Receivership Order"). The Receivership Order took possession and control of the County's sewer system and the revenues attributable to or traceable from moneys derived from the operation of the sewer system (the "System") away from the County and gave it to the Receiver. The Receiver has been operating and administering the System to the exclusion of the County and has had the sole and exclusive right and authority to control all accounts related to the System and its revenues since the entry of the Receivership Order. Notwithstanding the clear legal authority that the automatic stay does not apply to the Receiver or the Receivership Case and that the County has no authority to require the Receiver turnover the System to the County, the County has by letter dated November 9, 2011, demanded that the Receiver turnover the System to the County and has asserted that the automatic stay does apply and that unless the Receiver relinquishes control of the System back to the County the County will seek remedies against the Receiver. The Trustee's Motion seeks an immediate determination that the Receiver is entitled to maintain possession and control over the System despite the County's Chapter 9 proceeding.

III. GROUNDS FOR EXPEDITED RELIEF

- 1. The Trustee seeks an order from this Court abstaining from taking any action to interfere with the Receivership Case and the performance by the Receiver of his powers and duties under the Receivership Order. In the alternative, the Trustee moves for an expedited order modifying the automatic stay to the extent necessary to allow the Receiver to continue exercising all of the powers and duties granted him under the Receivership Order.
- 2. The foregoing relief is necessary so the Receiver may continue to operate and administer the System in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and the Receivership Order without any cloud on his authority to do so, and in order to mitigate additional irreparable harm to the Parity Security Holders and to protect the Parity Security Holders' interests in the System.
- 3. Expedited consideration of the Trustee's Motion is necessary because confusion over who is in control of the System's management will harm the System. The Receiver has the sole and exclusive control over the System, including the accounts of the System, the right and authority to enter into or modify System contracts, the right and authority to hire, discharge, manage and control System Staff, and the right and authority to fix and charge rates and charges for services furnished by the System. (*See* Motion, Ex. B, Receivership Order at 9 11, ¶¶ 2(c), (2)(d), 2(e), 2(f), 2(j)). Any uncertainty, for any length of time, over whether the Receiver or the County is in charge of these functions, among others, will result in lost efficiencies and revenues.
- 4. Further, expedited consideration of the Trustee's motion for relief from stay "is contemplated by 11 U.S.C. § 362(f), which authorizes the Court to grant stay relief with or without a hearing 'if necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the interest of an entity in property" *In re Parten*, No. 07-10255-JDW, 2007 WL 788883, at *2 (Bkrtcy. M.D. Ga. March 13, 2007); *see also General Electric Credit Corporation v. Montgomery Mall Limited*

Partnership (In re Montgomery Mall Limited Partnership), 704 F.2d 1173, 1175-76 (10th Cir. 1983) (Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals affirming a bankruptcy court's decision to conduct a hearing on a motion for emergency relief on one day's notice and noting that relief under § 362(f) was appropriate where irreparable injury to collateral would ensue).

- 5. Allowing the County to manage the System for any period of time will cause irreparable harm to the Trustee and the Parity Security Holders. The Parity Securities are limited-recourse debt secured by a special pledge of the Trust Estate (as defined below).³ Thus, as found by the State Court, the County's failure to operate the System in a manner that generated revenues sufficient to provide for the payment of the Parity Securities and other obligations outstanding against the System, and for the payment of expenses of operating and maintaining the System reduced the overall value of the Trust Estate and resulted in irreparable harm to the Trustee and the Parity Security Holders. (*See* Motion, Ex. B, Receivership Order at 6, ¶ 17, 19). In the Trustee's estimation, the Parity Security Holders lost at least two million dollars of revenue per month that could have been applied toward the payment of the County's then-outstanding Warrant obligations.
- 6. The County has demonstrated an inability to efficiently and economically administer the System. Returning control of the System to the County would be a set-back to the efficient operation of the System. Both the Federal District Court and the State Court determined

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[&]quot;The Trustee has a first priority lien on all funds of the System in its possession, the System Revenues (other than revenues derived from the Sewer Tax and any other tax revenues that constitute System Revenues) that remain after the payment of Operating Expenses, all monies from whatever source derived that are required by the Indenture to be deposited from time to time in the Debt Service Fund and the Reserve Fund, together with any investments and reinvestments of such monies and the income [or] proceeds thereof, and any and all other monies, rights and properties of every kind or description which have been or hereafter may be sold, transferred, conveyed, assigned, hypothecated, endorsed, deposited, pledged, mortgaged, granted or delivered to, or deposited with Trustee by the County or anyone on its part as additional security for payment of all or any specified series of Parity Securities, or which pursuant to any of the provisions of the Indenture may come into possession or control of the Trustee as such additional security, in each case as security for the Parity Securities and the performance by the County of the covenants set forth in the Indenture (collectively the "Trust Estate")." (See Motion, Ex. B, Receivership Order 4-5, ¶ 13).

that the County failed to operate the System in an economical, efficient and proper manner and that the System would benefit from the management of the Receiver.

- a. In June 2009, Judge Proctor, considered the appropriate factors for the appointment of a Receiver and found that the factors weighed in favor of the appointment of a Trustee. Specifically, Judge Proctor found that the County and its representatives had engaged in fraudulent conduct and suppression surrounding the System and the issuance of the Warrants; that the County was squandering the assets of the System; that the County was not administering the System in a fiscally responsible manner; and that a Receiver would enhance the operational efficiencies of the System. (*See* Motion, Ex. D, Memorandum Opinion at 16, 22, 23).
- b. Judge Johnson made similar findings more than a year later. The State Court held that the Trustee had proven all factors necessary under Alabama law to be entitled to the appointment of a receiver; that the County had failed to operate the System in an economical, efficient and proper manner; and that the public interest and the ends of justice would be best served by the appointment of a Receiver. (*See* Motion, Ex. B, Receivership Order 6, ¶¶ 16-17).
- 7. Despite the election of new Commissioners, nothing has changed at the County since the Receivership Order was entered. The County is still dilatory in its actions and uncooperative. For example, as recent as July 2011, the County forced the Receiver to seek the Court's assistance in obtaining control over certain bank accounts related to the System. In issuing its order the State Court emphasized that there should be no further debate about the Receiver's sole and exclusive right and authority to control all accounts related to the System, that the order was issued solely to clear up "any misplaced belief to the contrary any party may

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have," and it put the County on notice that if the County did not comply with the order it would

immediately begin contempt proceedings. (See Motion, Ex. G, July 8, 2011 Order at ¶¶ 1, 4-5).

And as evidenced by the County's resolution accompanying its Chapter 9 Petition, the County

still has no intention of raising System rates to a level necessary to comply with its obligations.

8. A speedy decision that the Receiver continues to control the System post-petition

and that the filing of the Chapter 9 petition by the County did not alter or otherwise divest the

Receiver of any authority granted by the Receivership Order will prevent further irreparable

harm to the Parity Security Holders. Any public struggle for control of the System, perceived or

actual, will likely cause disorder. Therefore, the Trustee's motion should be heard on an

expedited basis as soon as possible.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court

enter an order:

1. Granting the request for expedited relief and setting this Motion for a final

hearing on an expedited basis within three business days or as soon as possible; and

2. Granting any such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted on this the 10th day of November, 2011.

By: /s/ Larry B. Childs

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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This the 10th day of November, 2011.

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